

**Oregon Tualatin Valley
Amateur Radio Club**

The OSCILLATOR

AUGUST 2009

Issue 2009:08
Our 31st Year

The Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club is a special service club related to ARRL: The National Association for Amateur Radio. We seek to advance the Amateur Radio Service through:

- ⇒ Education and Training of new and licensed amateurs
- ⇒ Public Service and Emergency communication
- ⇒ Hobby nets, contests and meetings
- ⇒ Social events

Membership is available to anyone. An amateur radio license is not required.

I GO NOWHERE WITHOUT MY RADIO

Rich Lippucci KI6RRQ was monitoring the Catalina Amateur Radio Association (CARA) repeater on his base station in San Diego County on July 11th. Rich heard Kirk Gustafson KE6MTF come on, 'Is there anybody listening?' Rich responded and the Kirk said he was on his handheld transceiver hiking in the Mt Baldy area. He was about 2.5 miles off road and resting at the wilderness San Antonio Ski Hut. A few hikers had arrived from farther in the backcountry — one of their friends had broken an ankle and was a mile or more up the trail and they needed help. Mt Baldy is the highest peak in the San Gabriel Mountains and the highest point in Los Angeles County.

I asked Kirk if he had a cell phone, but he told me there was no cell service where they were. I told him I would coordinate emergency services over my landline and asked for his exact location. Kirk did an excellent job; he had a good idea of where he was but wasn't sure which county he was in. He had a GPS device and gave his coordinates. Kirk informed me that the injured lady was around 40 years old and that there were up to 15 hikers hanging around the ski hut, some of which were search and rescue volunteers on vacation. They had some kind of radios with them, but their batteries were dead.

Chelsea in the San Bernardino County Sheriff's dispatch center coordinated the rescue with the San Bernardino Fire Department who sent a foot patrol to the area. The Sheriff's office dispatched a helicopter to meet someone at the ski hut to take them to where the hiker was down.

See NOWHERE, Page 5

CLUB MEETING

Wednesday, August 12th

Our club meeting will be held at The Rood Bridge Park in Hillsboro on Wednesday, August 12th.

Come at 5:00 PM for interaction with other club members and guests or to use the barbeque or enjoy an picnic meal. Ice Cream will be served at 6:30 pm for all. Bring your favorite ice cream to share...and toppings, sauces, etc.

Family members and friends are welcome to come with you. Guests are always welcome and an amateur radio license is not required.

Check out our web site: www.otvarc.org.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL - AUGUST 12th - ROOD BRIDGE PARK



Our Annual Ice Cream Social will be held on Wednesday, August 12th, at Rood Bridge Park. The park, located at 4000 SE Rood Bridge Rd, Hillsboro, OR 97123, is best reached via Tualatin Valley Highway. From TV Highway, turn south on Minter Bridge Road, left onto River Road, and right onto Rood Bridge Road. Rood Bridge Park is a municipal park in southeast Hillsboro.

Opened in 1999, the park encompasses 60 acres on the north bank of the Tualatin River at its confluence with Rock Creek. Rood Bridge is near Hillsboro High School and sits across the river from Meriwether National Golf Course. The park is Hillsboro's largest, and contains tennis courts, a meeting facility, trails, a canoe launch, and a rhododendron garden.



Coordinates are: 45° 29' 31" N 122°56' 56" W

HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN HAM RADIO?

In my 26 plus years of ham radio, I've had several opportunities to explain ham radio to the general public. Sometimes, folks politely smile, nod and say something like "hmmm... playing with antennas and radios for fun?... different strokes for different folks I guess."

KØGVG explaining ham radio to Boy Scouts: I've found that over the years, analogies and comparisons to fishing work quite well. I have a younger brother who has no interest in ham radio, but loves to fish... big time. He has the bass boat, he enters tournaments, he is a member of several clubs... Why don't folks question my brother about his passion for fishing in the same way they question me about ham radio? Since I've been spending some time this summer on the tower project, I've had the chance to talk with many non-hams about the project. As you might expect, this generates a few questions to which the fishing comparisons apply...

"What do you do with ham radio?"

I enjoy contesting (the sport of trying to see how many contacts can be made within a defined timeframe - often with a score that is calculated by multiplying by a factor such as the number of countries contacted during that time) and DXing (the hobby of trying to contact as many "countries" as possible) - among many other aspects of the hobby.

"What's the fun in contesting? Spending a weekend trying to talk to a bunch of places on the radio doesn't sound very fun."

Ham radio / fishing comparison #1: Ham radio contesting can be a lot like a bass fishing contest. The contestants in a fishing tournament aren't out there fishing to put food on the table (what many would say is the primary reason for fishing). They are competing with each other and trying to see how well they can do personally - for the sport of it.

"This DXing thing..."

"If you want to talk to someone on the other side of the world can't you just call or email them?"

Ham radio / fishing comparison #2: This is a lot like asking a fisherman "why bother fishing when you can simply go to the store to buy fish?" It's more about the art and science and love of radio... With HF radio propagation (and many other factors), you never really know what you'll find on the airwaves. That's what makes it fun.

"Do you really need a tower if you have a radio in your car? Does the tower need to be that tall?"

Ham radio / fishing comparison #3: This question is a lot like asking a guy who competes in bass fishing tournaments if he really needs the boat. Sure, he could simply cast a line from the shoreline - but not if he wants to be competitive. Similarly a tower is more or less a requirement to compete in a ham radio contest. [Ed: Some of us would disagree]

As for tower height... a tall tower does several things...

- * It can lower the take-off angle of a signal (allowing for longer-distance contacts)

- * It can help reduce or eliminate the potential for interference with nearby electronics (the antennas are higher and further away from cordless phones, TV sets, etc.)

"Ok, but do we really need to look at that thing? Don't your neighbors think it's ugly?"

Thankfully, I haven't been faced with this one yet. But here is where I might use:

Ham radio / fishing comparison #4: Just like your friendly neighborhood fisherman keeps his bass boat in his backyard, I have to keep my tower and antennas in my backyard. In the event of an emergency (let's say it's a flood), your neighbor with the boat might be able to assist by using the boat to transport people or property safely. Likewise, ham radio operators may be called upon to use our equipment in time of an emergency.

Paul Linnman AT SEA-PAC

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION

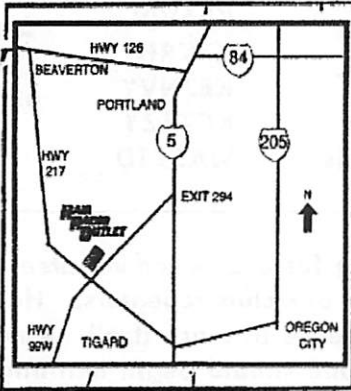
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LUNCH BUNCH

Join us for LUNCH BUNCH
Saturday, August 22, 2009
1:30 pm

McGrath's Fish House
3211 SW Cedar Hills Boulevard
Beaverton

Talk-In: W7OTV - 146.960

Information?
Linda KC7YTD
503.246.8879

EXPLAIN, from page 2

I am involved in community and national disaster preparedness drills in which ham radio operators use their skills and equipment to handle radio messages for the sake of the public.

PATRICK J. RUNDALL NØHR

N8CPA writes:

*"I love the smell of generator exhaust in the morning-
It smells like Field Day!"*



KEX Radio morning host, Paul Linnman, featured speaker at the 2009 SEA-PAC Banquet, here receives a "Super Wizzbang Radio Operator" souvenir shirt at this year's banquet. Presented by JD Fort K7JDF, his producer and a member of the event's sponsoring club, Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club.

FIELD DAY OPERATORS

Add Ray Deeth K7VDQ to last month's list of Field Day operators. He was in the key overnight and logged many contacts for our CW operation.

Sorry, Ray, that we missed you last month.

OTVARC ADDRESS:

880 NE 25th Ave Ste 2-160
Hillsboro OR 97124-6258
otvarc@gmail.com

HAMFESTS & CONVENTIONS**8 August 2009**

Hamfest & Flea Market
Bethel Jr High School
32001 39th Ave
Spanaway, WA 98387
9:00 am - 2:00 pm
Talk In: 147.28+ (103.5)
Larry KD4VOM
253.843.2190
hamfest@w7dk.org

9 - 12 OCTOBER 2009**Pacific NW VHF Conf**

<http://pnwvhfs.org>
Shilo Inn North Prom
Seaside Oregon
Scott Honaker, N7SS
14014 89th Avenue SE
Snohomish, WA 98296
425-330-5439
Fax: 360-668-6073
n7ss@arrrl.net

24 October 2009**Swap-Tober - Fest**

Polk County Fairgrounds
520 S Pacific Highway West
Rickreall, Oregon
Hwy 99W
www.swaptoberfest.net/preregistration.html
Information:
www.swaptoberfest.net

Happy August Birthday

5	John Bucsek	KE7WNB
8	John M. Hays	KD7OHK
10	Patrick Mohr	KC7ZZV
16	Jim Blanchard	W7HOW
19	Russell Graham	KD7BSA
19	Donald Baldwin	AA2V
21	Dana Gehm	KB6VIV
21	Ken Haynes	K7KRH
24	Jeff Boone	KE7NVY
30	Jill Mohr	KC7ZZY
31	Charles Dennis	WA5ZTD

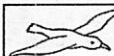
Have we missed your birthday?
Likely we do not have your correct date in our database.

Send updates and corrections to
otvarc@gmail.com

Wes Allen is looking for a *qualified volunteer* to learn the in-and-outs of the care for our club repeaters. He says it would take several years experience to learn it all. *Any transition would be in the future*, but someone should begin learning now. Contact Wes at wjaham@verizon.net to learn more.

Your business advertising in *THE OSCILLATOR* is seen each month by more than 200 members read *THE OSCILLATOR*.

To include your "Business Card" ad (\$48.00 annually) or "Display" - HRO size ad (\$60.00 annually), contact **Maureen O'Rourke** at 503.591.9641. There is currently limited space available.



J. Steven Sanders

Certified General Appraiser

Sanders Appraisal, PC

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CLUB JACKETS AND CAPS

We are preparing a new order for Club Emblem Jackets. Pat Roberson W6PAT handles Jackets and Caps for us. He needs six more Jacket orders to complete this buy. Jackets in all sizes are now available in the signature red color. Contact Pat for more information at w7pat@arrl.net or by phone at 503.848.2283.

Club Caps are in stock and may be purchased from Pat. These are \$14.00. These are high quality caps with embroidered emblem.

MY RADIO, from Page 1

It took a little less than an hour for emergency services to get above the location in a helicopter, but they were not able to land the helicopter due to the rocky terrain at the ski lift. While the foot patrol and helicopter were on their way, the group of hikers brought the injured lady down the trail to the ski hut, stabilized her leg and determined it was probably not broken. They could not carry her out as the trail down from the wilderness ski lift was so steep. The ski hut can only be reached via a steep three mile hike and 2,200 feet elevation gain.

The dispatcher told Rich that the helicopter would perform a skid rescue where a crew member suspends a bed basket from the helicopter; the victim is secured and pulled back up to the helicopter. The dispatchers asked him to relay back to Kirk, asking if the group needed anything, such as food or water. They didn't need anything that wasn't already on site. About 15 minutes from arriving on site, the helicopter and its crew got the victim airlifted out successfully without further complications.

Ham radio saved the day. A handheld radio, hitting a local wide-area repeater, was what was needed when cell and landline phones were not available. The CARA club maintains their machine with significant reach in Southern California on 2 meters. Other hams on the air were gracious to respect the emergency traffic and keep communications open during the rescue. This is such an excellent example of the benefits of ham radio. If people had to hike out of the wilderness, get to their cars and find a cell

IARU HF Championship

In the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) HF Championship, a 24-hour contest, everyone, everywhere can try their best to work as many stations and International Telecommunications Union (ITU) Zones as possible for contest score multipliers. The result is an interesting contest where both domestic and foreign stations can be contacted. Another aspect of the contest is the activation of IARU Member Society "Headquarters Stations". Many of their callsigns include "HQ" in the suffix. For example: "P40HQ" was on the air from Aruba.

Everett Curry W6ABM and Ron O'Connor KD7VIK put together a last minute entry in the IARU HF Contest the weekend of July 12, 2009, operating as contest call W7TVC.

Due to a Saturday morning work commitment, W7TVC didn't get on the air from the KD7VIK QTH until the second half of the contest, running from 4:30 PM to 1:00 AM.

A total of 106 contacts were made for a QSO point total of 300, including 56 ITU Zone multipliers. Total score was 16,800 points.

I highly recommend this contest for anyone interested in a low key event with plenty of easy stations to hear and work. The 24-hour run still leaves time to have Ham Radio fun without filling an entire weekend.

- Ron O'Connor KD7VIK

signal, they might have been pushing up against the loss of daylight hours. Any rescue would have been significantly more difficult in the dark.

Kirk said when he got out of his car to start his hike, he grabbed his handheld transceiver radio and GPS. His friends told him 'That's just extra weight – you won't need that.' He told them, 'I go nowhere without my radio. If I need to call for help, the only way I would be able to let them know where I am is with GPS. I'm bringing them.' I don't think they will say that next time! Kirk said that one of them decided they need to look into getting a ticket and radio and that the search and rescue folks said they were going to look into getting ham radio licenses."

SEA-PAC DOUBLE IMPACT

Kathleen Reiter N1ERT is the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for the Corbett Area Neighborhood Emergency Response Teams. She won a Yaesu rig at the 2009 edition of SEA-PAC. Recently, she wrote about the significance of that win:

I am the Program Coordinator for the Neighborhood Emergency Response Team in the Corbett Area - a group of 30 CERT volunteers, seven of whom are HAMS.

We have been trying to get county and other authorities to provide the community with a Ham Radio System, dedicated as a community asset for emergency communications. We have worked for more than five years for this goal. So far we have met with lots of excuses, but no radio. The Response Team has no budget to purchase one.

Now, thanks to all of you and Yaesu, my lucky draw means I can provide the Team's Hams, and the people of the community, with a gorgeous 50 watt dual band station! We will finally have enough mobile stations to establish one each of our fire stations in the event of a disaster.

Until county authorities can provide the support that the community needs, the Response Team, at least, will be ready.

Thank you, again for helping make it possible.

Kathleen Reiter N1ERT

Kathleen is a member of Hoodview Amateur Radio Club, one of the clubs supporting Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club in sponsorship of SEA-PAC. The other partner clubs are: Clark County Amateur Radio Club, Sunset Empire Amateur Radio Club, and Radio Amateurs of the Gorge.

Congratulations to Kathleen on her win...and on her generosity on behalf of her community.

CYCLE 24 UPDATE

The Solar Cycle 24 Prediction Panel has reached a consensus decision on Solar Cycle 24. First, the panel has agreed that solar minimum occurred in December, 2008. This still qualifies as a prediction since the smoothed sunspot number is only valid through September, 2008.

The panel has decided that the cycle 24 will be below average in intensity, with a maximum sunspot number of 90. Given the predicted date of solar minimum and the predicted maximum intensity, solar maximum is now expected to occur in May, 2013.

Note, this is a consensus opinion, not a unanimous decision. A supermajority of the panel did agree to this prediction.

Stay up-to-date with predictions by checking this site regularly:

<http://solarcycle24.com/>

HOW TEENS BECOME HAMS

One day four years ago, sixteen-year-old Trenton Gluck KI6EGM realized that pocket phones and the Internet don't work when there's a power failure. Battery-powered ham radios and solar-powered hilltop repeater stations do. So the Calabasas, California, youngster was all ears when science teacher Karl Beutel KE6MAO offered to teach A.C. Stelle Middle School eighth-graders basic radio principles and give them extra credit if they could pass the Amateur Radio license test. Gluck was among 17 students to pass the FCC test that year. Beutel, 33, of Agoura Hills, said he was motivated by the 1994 Northridge earthquake to become a licensed amateur radio operator.

Over the next three years, 57 others earned their licenses. There are plans to offer the two-day radio sequence again this coming school year.

Beutel was motivated to work radio into his students' classroom instruction after Norm Goodkin K6YXH bemoaned the state's dropping references to electromagnetism from its eighth-grade physical sciences curriculum.